



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Camelina



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
10 W 15th Street, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626
800-835-2612 · FAX 800-915-6277 · www.nass.usda.gov/mt

Released: March 4, 2008

For more information contact: Eric Siebens or Peggy Stringer

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service field office in Helena, Montana has completed its first statistical program for the oilseed crop known as camelina for the state of Montana. Since this is the first data collection program for camelina, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has no empirical way to draw historical comparisons for the crop. The intent of this report is to help provide an insight into the 2007 camelina crop and provide a basis for which future historical comparisons could be built upon.

Crop Development:

The field office collected crop development data for 4 different stages: emerged, blooming, turning and harvested. The planted stage was omitted due to the fact it was outside the weekly crop progress survey time frame. Table 1 generally outlines the beginning and end of each stage. It should be noted that these are statewide averages and could change due to specific local conditions.

Table 1: Montana's Camelina Crop Development, 2007.

Stage	Beginning	End
Emerged	Early April	Late May
Blooming	Mid May	Early July
Turning	Mid June	Late July
Harvested	Mid July	Mid August

Acreage:

For the 2007 crop year, there were 22,500 acres of camelina planted in Montana of which 20,400 acres were harvested as shown in Table 2. This makes the 2007 camelina crop the second largest oilseed crop in Montana behind safflower at 38,000 acres planted. The largest county planting of camelina was Valley at 4,300 acres followed by Chouteau county at 2,700 acres. These two counties make up 31% of the total state acreage for camelina. Even though camelina is a dry land crop, a small percentage of Montana's planted acreage was irrigated.

Table 2: Montana's County Level Acreage and Production for Camelina, 2007.

County and District	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Lbs/Ac	Production Pounds
Flathead	500	500	920	460,000
Other	100	-	-	-
Northwest	600	500	920	460,000
Chouteau	2,700	2,500	595	1,488,000
Hill	800	600	555	333,000
Liberty	500	500	544	272,000
Pondera	2,100	1,900	662	1,257,000
Teton	700	600	543	326,000
Other	1,500	1,500	500	750,000
North Central	8,300	7,600	582	4,426,000
McCone	1,500	1,500	614	921,000
Valley	4,300	4,300	716	3,077,000
Other	2,500	1,500	627	940,000
Northeast	8,300	7,300	676	4,938,000
Fergus	1,200	1,200	207	248,000
Other	800	800	475	380,000
Central	2,000	2,000	314	628,000
Southwest	600	400	550	220,000
Yellowstone	900	900	806	725,000
Other	600	500	500	250,000
South Central	1,500	1,400	696	975,000
Southeast	1,200	1,200	458	550,000
Montana	22,500	20,400	598	12,197,000

Production:

Statewide production totaled 12,197,000 lbs for 2007 with a state yield of 598 lbs/ac. Yield reports ranged from 20 to 1,500 lbs/ac with 80% of the reported production yielding between 439 to 900 lbs/ac. The most frequently reported yield was 700 lbs/ac which accounted for 28% of the total camelina production for the 2007 crop year. No conclusions can be drawn about the affects of irrigation on production since the number of acres under irrigated was limited. Several producers during the survey indicated that their yields had been negatively impacted by both localized drought conditions and weed problems.

Value of Production:

Overall camelina producers received an average of \$9.18 per hundredweight with a total crop value of 1.112 million dollars in 2007. Prices ranged from \$9.00 to \$15.00 per hundredweight which depended on market conditions. While a large percentage of the production was contracted, there were some growers that produced camelina for their own uses.

Data for planted, harvested, production and crop value were collected from October 15 through the end of December 2007, during which time 6,644 operators responded to the surveys. Data for Camelina were collected in conjunction with small grains, hay, pulse crops oilseeds and livestock data. Crop progress data came from the weekly Crop Weather survey that ran from April through October of 2007. The primary target of the crop progress survey is county extension agents and those individuals that have firsthand knowledge of their respective counties crop conditions.

